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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to the General Assembly (A/62/175) contains the overall administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund for the biennium 2008-2009 that have financial implications for the budget of the United Nations. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the present report identifies the financial implications that would arise for the regular budget should the Assembly adopt the recommendations submitted to it in the report of the Board.

The additional appropriation that would be required under the regular budget for the biennium 2008-2009, arising from the recommendations of the Board, is estimated at $748,200 after recosting.

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I. Introduction

1. In the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, provisions are made under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination (A/62/6 (Sect. 1)), for the participation of the United Nations in the costs of the secretariat of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund.

2. In paragraph 1.31 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, it has been indicated that at the time of the preparation of the programme budget proposals, the 2008-2009 administrative budget of the Fund had not yet been finalized and, when finalized, it would still be subject to review by the Pension Board and the General Assembly; and that implications for the regular budget, if any, regarding action to be taken by the Board and the decision by the Assembly in connection with the 2008-2009 budget proposals of the Fund would be the subject of a statement of programme budget implications that would be submitted to the Assembly during its consideration of the report of the Board.

3. In paragraph 1.28 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, it is indicated that the estimated requirements of $10,553,600 ($11,239,900 at the 2008-2009 rates) relate to the share of the regular budget for the expenses of the central secretariat of the Fund, excluding reimbursements anticipated from United Nations funds and programmes (the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)).

II. Implications for the United Nations of the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

4. The report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (A/62/175) was issued in response to the proposals by the Chief Executive Officer of the Fund/Secretary of the Board. Based on the report of the Board, the overall requirements amounting to $18,998,600 (at 2008-2009 rates) represent the United Nations share of the administrative and audit costs related to the Fund.

5. The additional requirements arise mainly from staffing changes in the proposed budget of the Fund. In addition, there are increased requirements for audit costs, computer-related maintenance and services, and rental of premises related to the additional posts.

6. Changes to the staffing component of the Fund secretariat include the establishment of 15 new posts, the conversion of 3 temporary posts to established posts and the redeployment of 2 posts from Investment Management Service to the secretariat. The growth in audit costs relates to the comprehensive workplan proposed by the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the biennium 2008-2009. With respect to increased requirements under computer-related maintenance and services, these are attributable to the implementation of information technology and business projects.

7. In accordance with established procedures, this overall amount would be shared among the regular budget of the United Nations and the funds and programmes. As reflected in paragraph 1.28 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, the distribution would require that an estimated

62.2 per cent of that amount would be attributable to the regular budget, with the balance to be reimbursed by the funds and programmes. However, based on the latest data on the number of participants in the Fund, against which the percentage is derived, the above percentage would need to be revised to 63.1 per cent.

8. In applying the revised distribution rate of 63.1 per cent to the proposed overall requirements of $18,998,600, an amount of $11,988,100 (at 2008-2009 rates) would represent the revised regular budget share, as compared to $11,239,900 (at 2008-2009 rates) already included under section 1 of the proposed programme budget. In this connection, an additional requirement in the amount of $748,200, reflecting the difference between the previously budgeted amount of the regular budget share and the revised requirements, would need to be included under section 1 of the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009.

III. Action required of the General Assembly

9. **Should the General Assembly approve the proposals and recommendations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, the overall requirements that would arise for the United Nations are estimated at $18,998,600 (at 2008-2009 rates). Of the total requirements for the biennium 2008-2009, the cost under the regular budget would amount to $11,988,100 and the balance of $7,010,500 would be reimbursed to the United Nations by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF.**

10. **Accordingly, should the General Assembly endorse the proposals of the Board, an additional appropriation of $748,200 would be required under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. The provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund.**